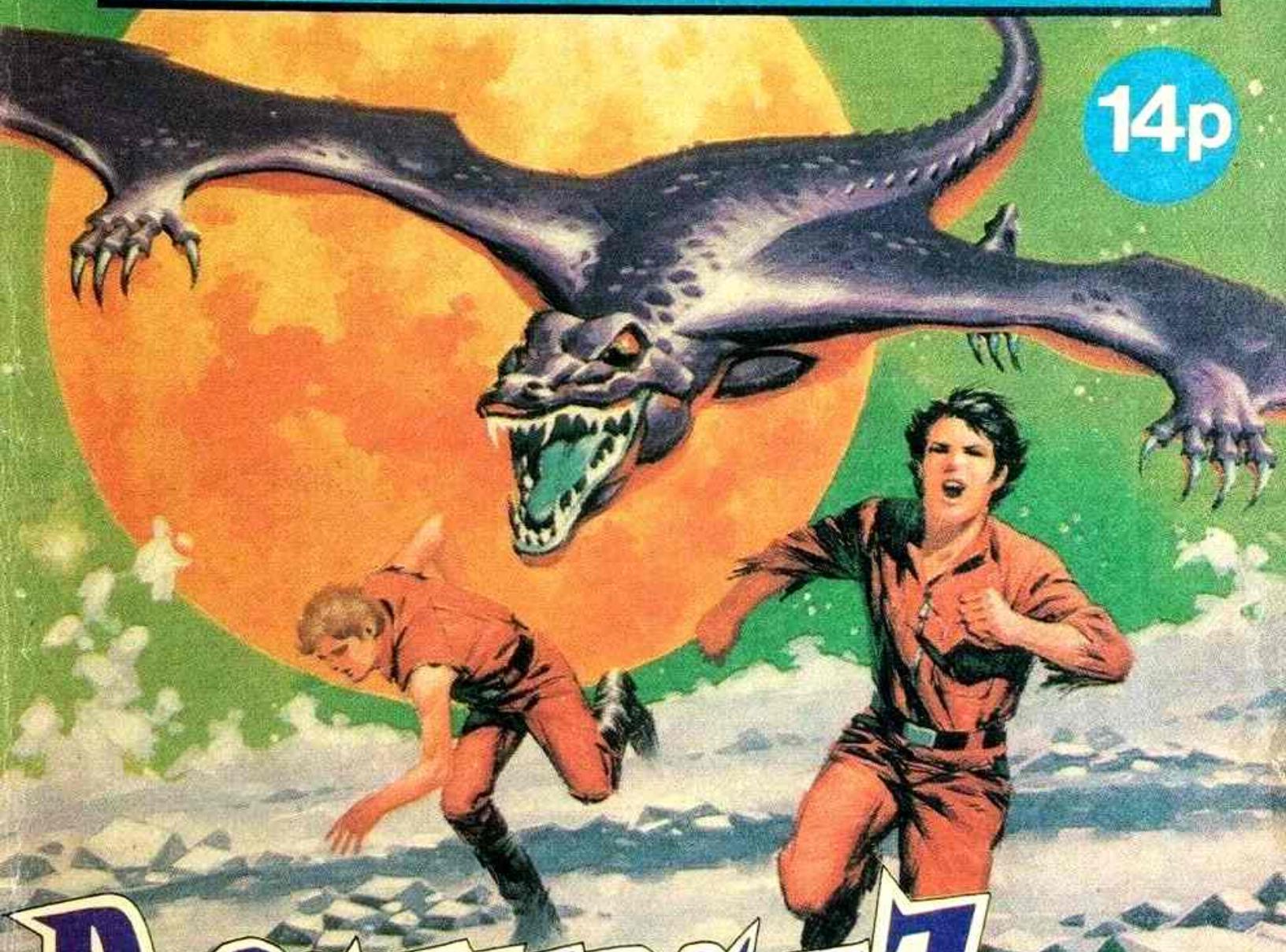


# STARBLAZER

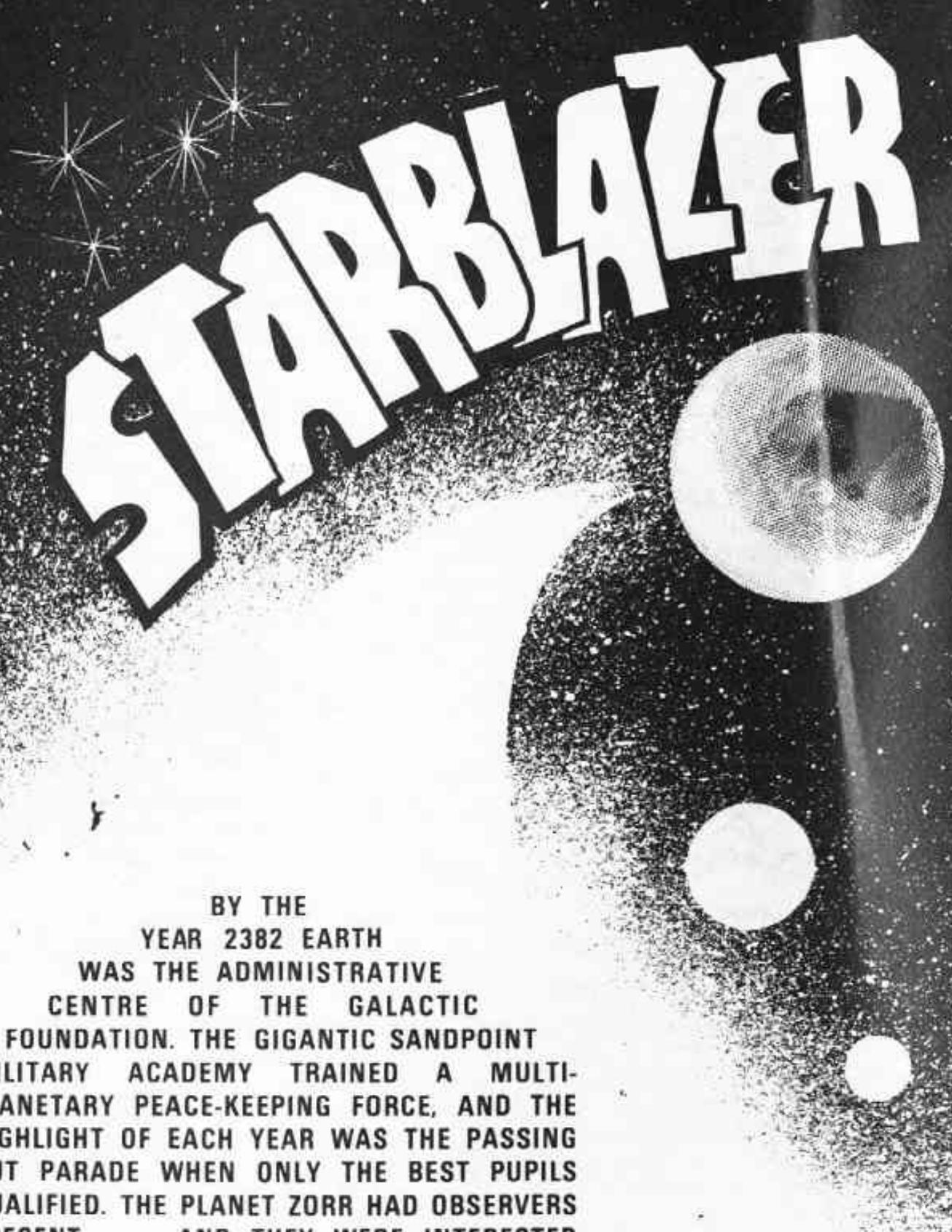
SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 51

14p



## PRISONERS OF ZORR

# IMBLAZER

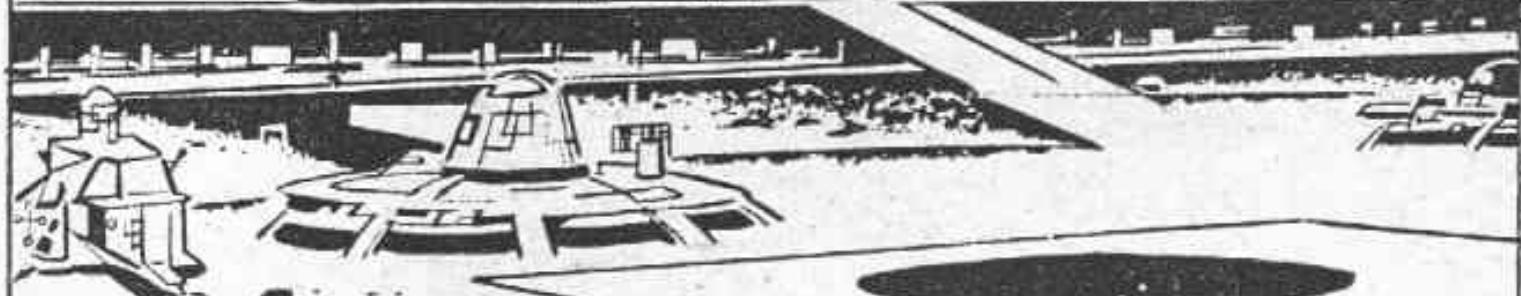
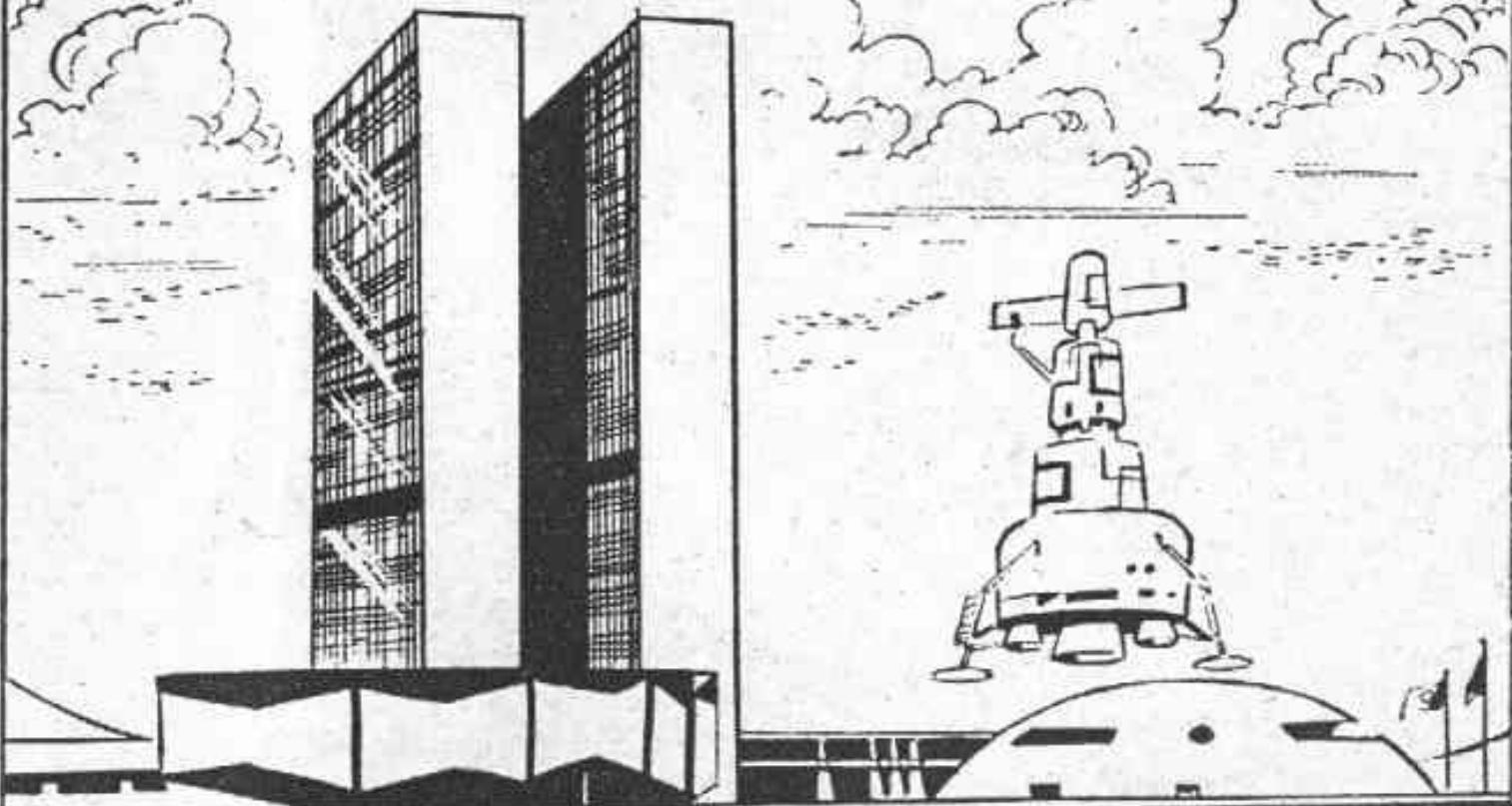


BY THE  
YEAR 2382 EARTH  
WAS THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
CENTRE OF THE GALACTIC  
FOUNDATION. THE GIGANTIC SANDPOINT  
MILITARY ACADEMY TRAINED A MULTI-  
PLANETARY PEACE-KEEPING FORCE, AND THE  
HIGHLIGHT OF EACH YEAR WAS THE PASSING  
OUT PARADE WHEN ONLY THE BEST PUPILS  
QUALIFIED. THE PLANET ZORR HAD OBSERVERS  
PRESENT . . . AND THEY WERE INTERESTED  
IN ONLY THE BEST.

# THE PRISONERS

# of ZORB

AT SANDPOINT AEROCENTRE, THE LAST OF THE INVITED NATIONS ARRIVED.



THIS MUST BE THE OBSERVERS FROM CLASTON-3. THEY'RE LATE. CHECK THEIR PASSES AND TAKE THEM TO THE TRIAL AREA IMMEDIATELY. EVERYONE ELSE HAS BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.



A FERRYCRAFT TOOK THE TWO OBSERVERS TO  
THE TRIAL AREA.

THE EVENT HAS JUST STARTED.  
YOU WILL NOT MISS MUCH.

FASTER! WE MUST MISS NOTHING.

ONE OF THE TESTS WAS A MOCK BATTLEFIELD.

THAT CRAFT HAS HIT A BLOCK BEAM—  
HE'S OUT.

THE TWO MOST RECENTLY ARRIVED OBSERVERS BARGED IN.

GET OUT OF OUR WAY. WE WISH  
TO SEE CLEARLY WHAT IS HAPPENING.

TWO FIRM FRIENDS, SOL AND HAMMON, WERE IN THE LEAD.

WE'RE IN THE LEAD, HAMMON, BUT  
THE NEXT ONE IS TOUGH.

YES! THE IMMOBILISER MINEFIELD.

MINES ON SCAN... INCREASE  
SPEED... ATTITUDE 90 DEG...

AS SOL BANKED TO AVOID A MINE, THE CRAFT'S FORCEFIELD BRUSHED IT...

SOL'S TOUCHED ONE... HE'S  
IN TROUBLE.



THE SMALL CRAFT COULD ONLY REACH AN ALTITUDE OF SOME SIX FEET, BUT HAMMON HAD PLANS...

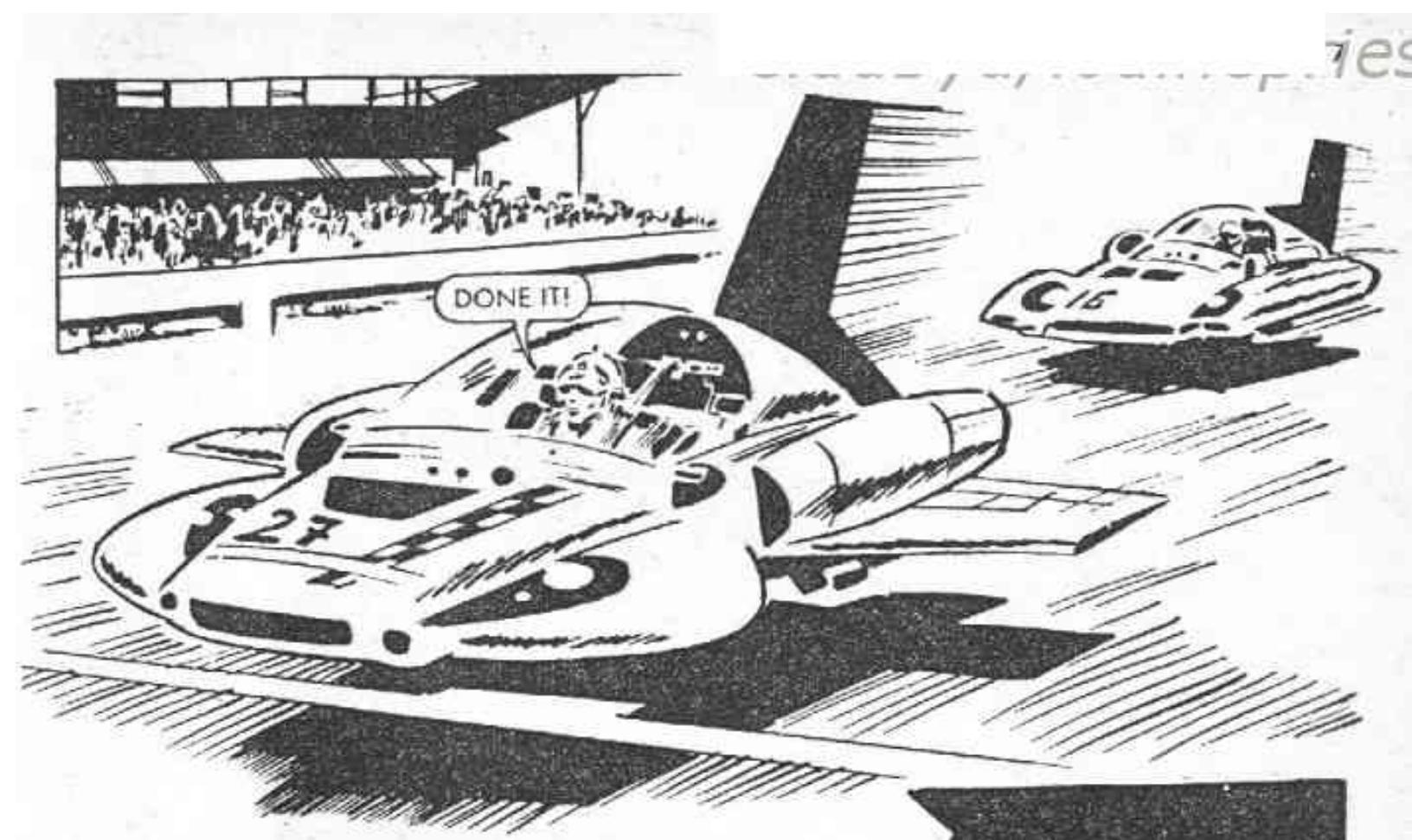


...HE ACCELERATED HIS CRAFT, BOUNCED OVER SOL'S, AND INTO THE LEAD.

SPEED AND POWER FELL AT OVER SIX FEET, SOL CREPT BACK TO LEVEL TERMS.

THAT SHOULD STRAIGHTEN  
HIM OUT.





DONE IT!



IF YOU HADN'T STRAIGHTENED  
ME OUT, YOU WOULD'VE WON.

MAYBE, BUT IF I HADN'T I  
WOULD'VE CRASHED INTO  
YOU.



YOU! WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE  
YOUNG MEN WHO FINISHED FIRST  
AND SECOND. WE WISH TO KNOW  
ALL ABOUT THEM.

THEY'RE BOTH FROM HERE ON EARTH. ONE OF THEM WILL WIN THE TITLE OF 'CADET OF THE YEAR.' BOTH HAVE A COMMANDING LEAD OVER THE REST OF US IN SHOOTING, LEADERSHIP TESTS, NAVIGATION, AND PRACTICALLY ALL THE OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES.



SOL AND HAMMON WERE PRESENTED TO ACADEMY HEAD, MARSHAL HISSEN.



AS SOL AND HAMMON RETURNED TO THEIR QUARTERS...



OUR INTENTION IS TO JOIN  
PEACEFORCE — NOT BECOME  
MERCENARIES.

FOOLS! HOW CAN THEY TURN DOWN  
SUCH WEALTH AND POWER? OUR  
ORDERS ARE TO RETURN TO ZORR  
WITH THE BEST CADETS. OUR MASTER  
MUST BE OBeyed.



THAT NIGHT . . .

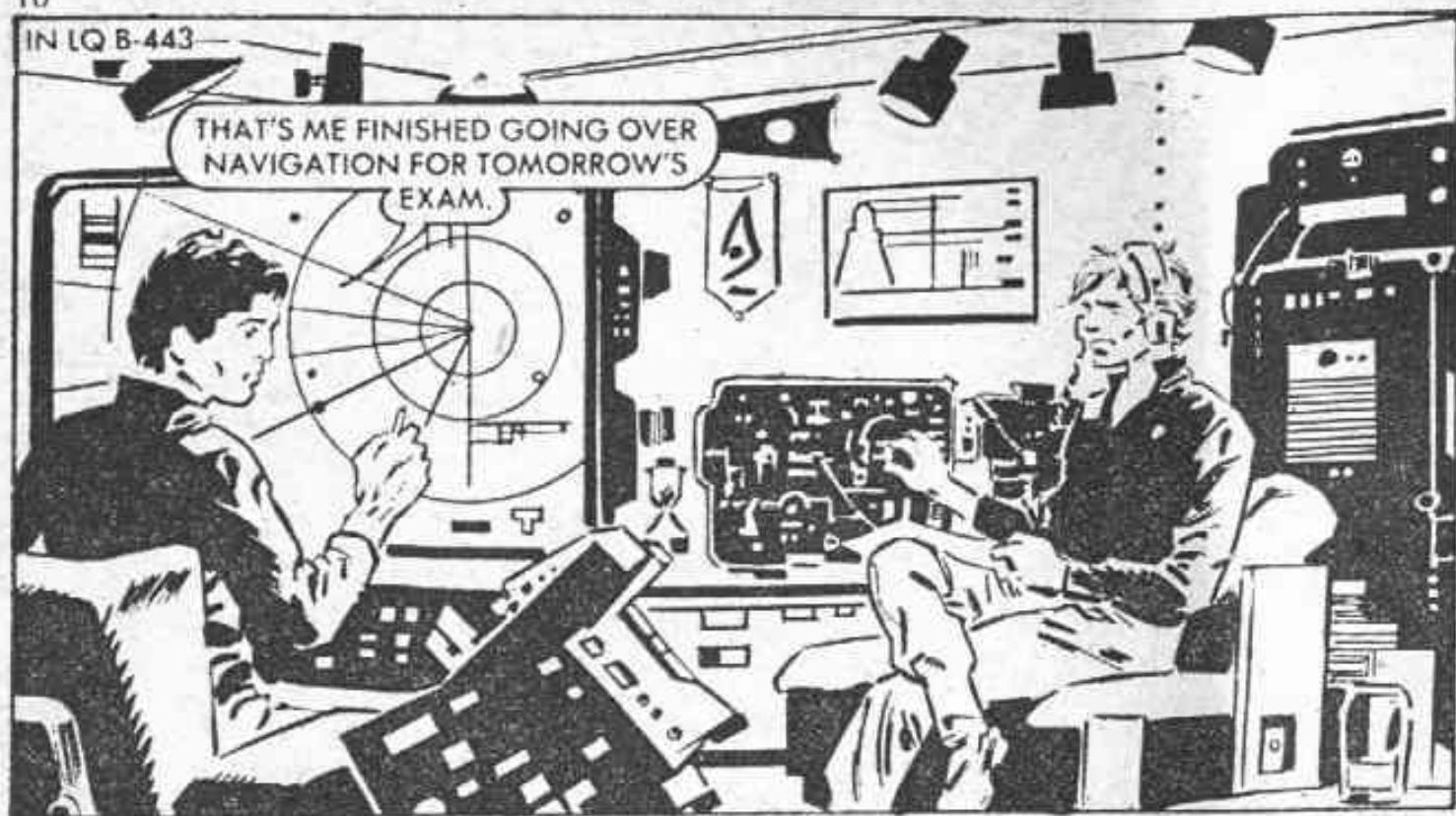
WE LEAVE TONIGHT. THE WHOLE CAMP IS  
COVERED WITH A SOPHISTICATED FIELD OF  
ENERGY, DESIGNED TO TRIGGER AN ALARM IF  
ANYTHING MOVES. OUR TECHNICIANS HAVE  
DEVELOPED A SYSTEM TO GIVE US PROTECTION.

THE FIELD  
NULLIFYER WORKS!  
LIVING QUARTER B-443  
IS THE ONE WE SEEK, HIGOR.



IN LQ B-443

THAT'S ME FINISHED GOING OVER  
NAVIGATION FOR TOMORROW'S  
EXAM.



AN EXPLOSION SHOOK THE BUILDING—

YOU'RE COMING WITH US—  
TO THE PLANET ZORR . . .

WHAT THE . . . STUNGS!



THE UNCONSCIOUS CADETS WERE CARRIED TO THE SPACESHIP.

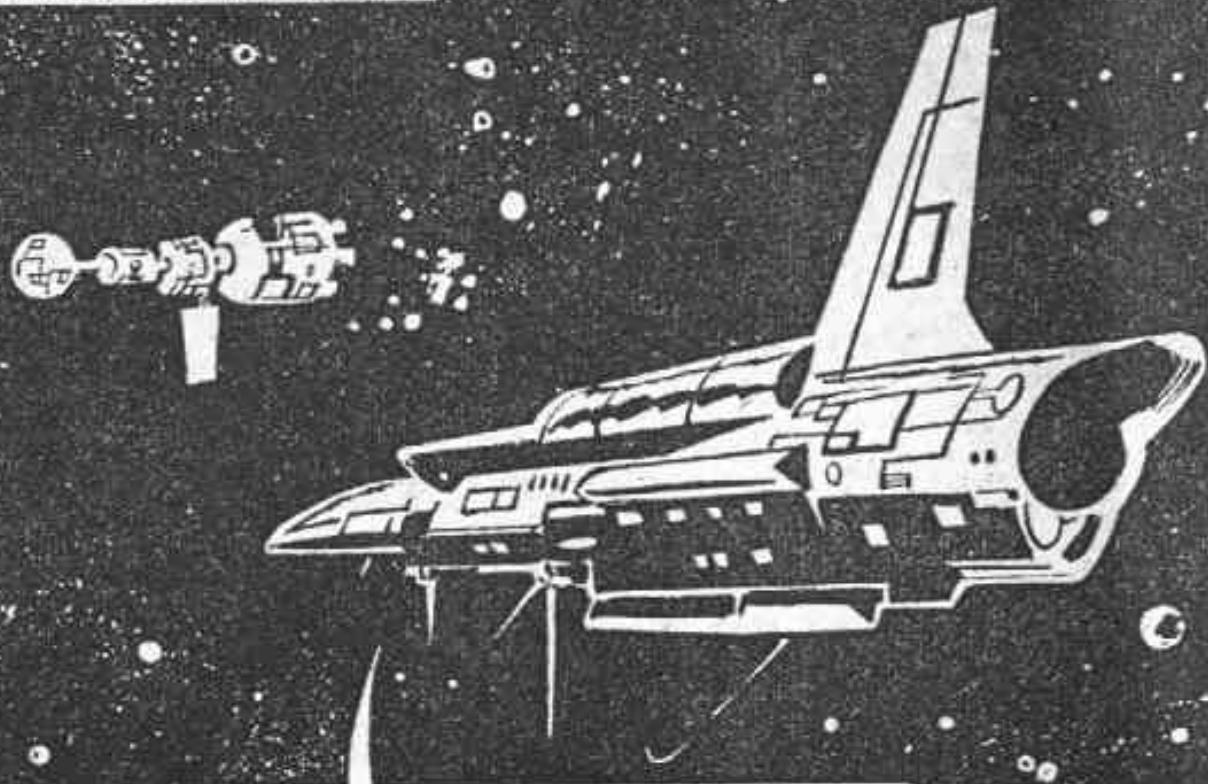


AS THE CRAFT THUNDERED AWAY—

THE CLASTON-3 SHIP IS LEAVING. THEY MUST BE AWARE OF THE BAN ON NIGHT-TIME TAKE-OFFS.  
ORDER A SECURITY ALERT.



MEANWHILE, FAR OUT IN SPACE—



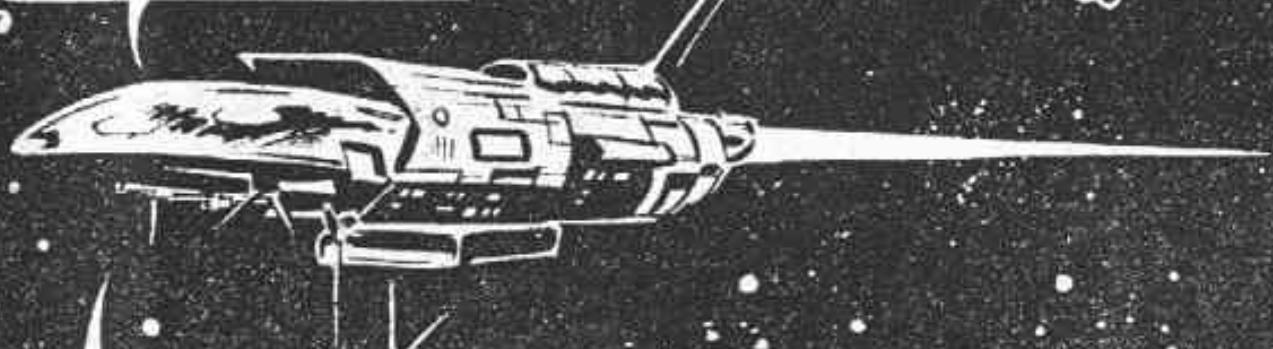
THAT SHIP APPEARS TO HAVE SUFFERED RECENT  
DAMAGE: INFILCTED BY SOME KIND OF WEAPON,  
I'D SAY. CALL PEACEFORCE.

ABOARD THE DAMAGED SHIP.

MURDERED! THESE MEN ARE FROM  
CLASTON-3.

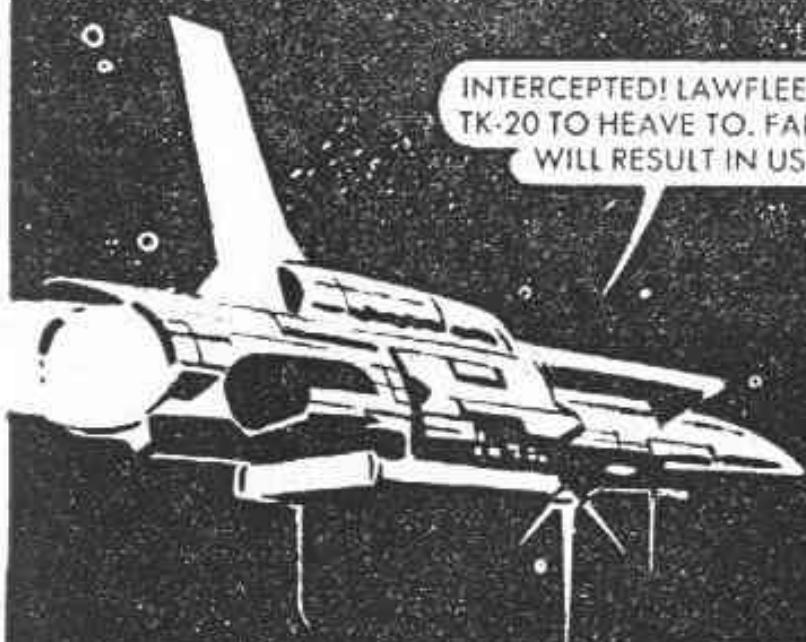
SIR, A MESSAGE HAS COME  
THROUGH FROM EARTH. TWO  
CADETS HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED  
FROM SANDPOINT. H.Q. HAS  
PLOTTED THE KIDNAPPERS'  
COURSE INTO THIS REGION.

THE KIDNAPPERS MUST HAVE MURDERED THE REAL OBSERVERS TO GET HOLD OF THEIR ELECTRONIC PASS. WONDER WHY THEY TOOK AWAY THOSE YOUNG MEN ...



COMMANDER, I HAVE A READING AT 01127-NT4 BEARING TOWARDS ALPHA 371. WE MAY BE ABLE TO INTERCEPT.

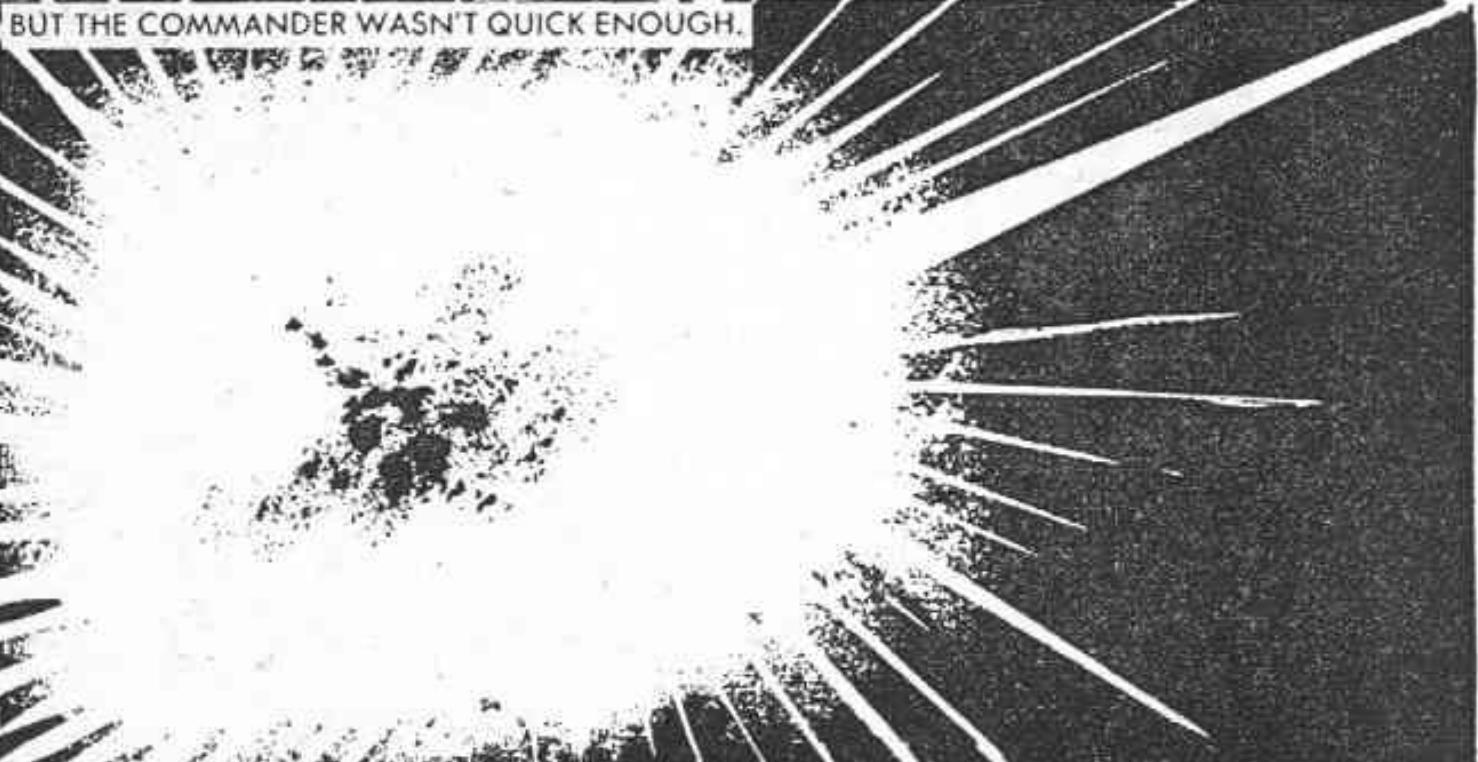
INTERCEPTED! LAWFLEET ORDERS VESSEL TK-20 TO HEAVE TO. FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN USE OF FORCE.



IS THAT SO?  
FIRE TUBE 1!



BUT THE COMMANDER WASN'T QUICK ENOUGH.



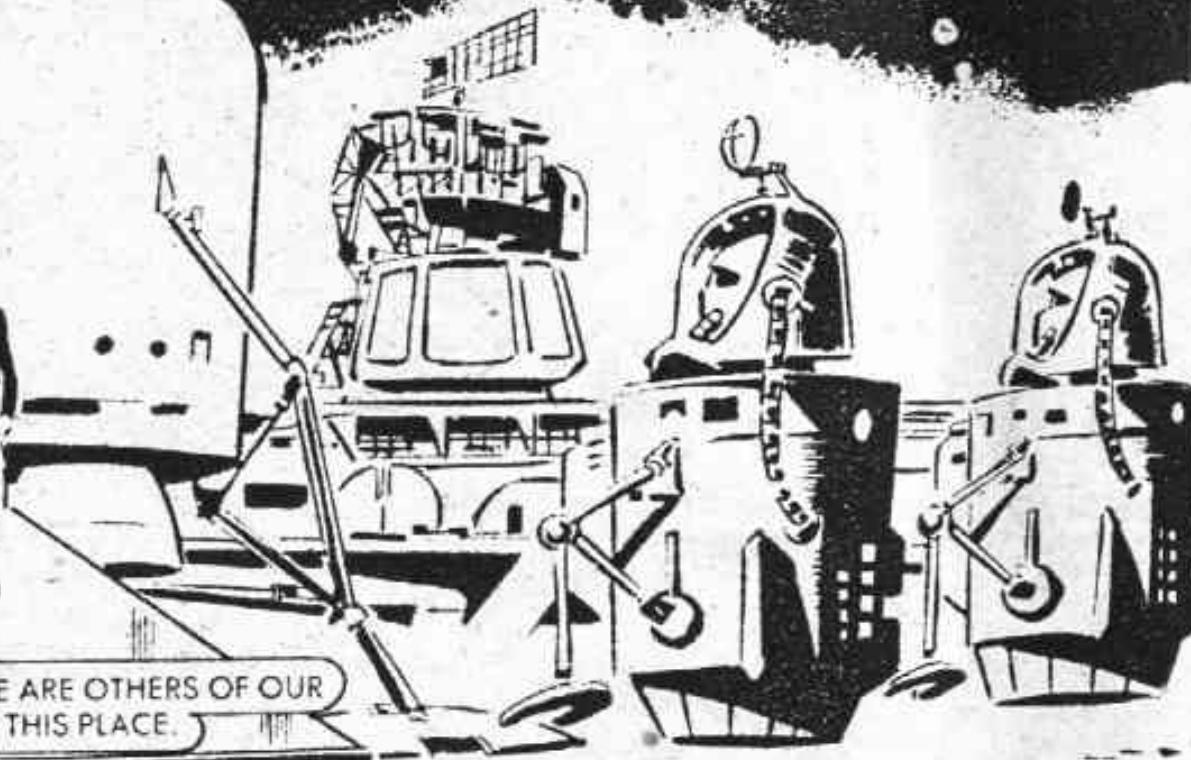
47 PARSECS LATER—

WELL, EARTH PEOPLE. WE HAVE  
REACHED THE PLANET ZORR. YOUR NEW HOME!



THE SHIP LANDED.

THE ROBOT GUARDS WILL TAKE OVER.  
WE LEAVE YOU NOW!



LOOK, SOL, THERE ARE OTHERS OF OUR  
AGE IN THIS PLACE.

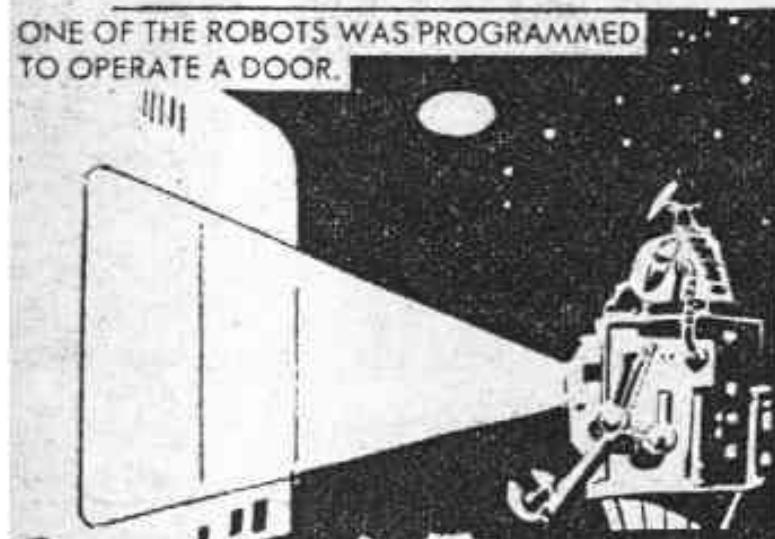


PROCEED! IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO  
ESCAPE. THERE IS A FORCE FIELD  
AROUND THE PERIMETER. WE PATROL  
AT ALL TIMES.

I CAN HARDLY WELCOME YOU  
TO THIS PLACE SINCE NONE  
OF US WISHES TO BE HERE!  
HOWEVER, I AM SCHULANN.  
MY JOB IS TO SETTLE IN NEW  
CAPTIVES.



ONE OF THE ROBOTS WAS PROGRAMMED  
TO OPERATE A DOOR.



HUT 85—YOUR NEW HOME. WHEN WE  
HAVE ALL ENTERED, THE DOOR WILL  
VANISH.



THESE PRISONS HAVE NO DOORS OR  
WINDOWS. OUR ROBOT GUARDS BEAM  
ANTI-MATTER PARTICLES AT ANY SPOT  
THEY WISH TO MAKE AN EXIT OR  
ENTRANCE.

MEANWHILE, ZORR, RULER OF THE PLANET NAMED AFTER HIM, WAS ENJOYING AN AFTERNOON'S SPORT.



MIGHTY ZORR, WE HAVE DELIVERED THE LAST TWO PRISONERS YOU REQUIRED.

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, HIGOR. NOW, YOU MAY WATCH MY LITTLE PET SLAY THE PEOPLE TAKEN FROM OUR NEIGHBOURING PLANET. IS IT NOT GOOD SPORT?

219  
pri  
ENOUGH—REPLACE THE BEAST.

I WISH TO MONITOR THE LATEST ARRIVALS FROM PLANET EARTH.



EXCELLENT. WE SHALL SEE IF THE PRISONERS MEASURE UP TO THE TASK I HAVE ORDAINED THEM ALL.



VALCAN, ONE OF GENERAL ZORR'S GENERALS, ENTERED

GENERAL VALCAN, AN INTERESTING SITUATION IS DEVELOPING AMONG THE PRISONERS. YOU MUST NOT MISS THIS!



BUT WE DO! YOU CAN PRODUCE FIGHTING MEN, BUT NOT ENOUGH LEADERS.



WE DO NOT NEED THEM TO ASSIST OUR PLAN OF CONQUEST.

THE NEWCOMERS FROM EARTH ARE TRYING TO ORGANISE AN ESCAPE ALREADY. MOMBA THE TARDON OBJECTS TO THE IDEA!



IN THE PRISON HUT—

THIS TALK OF ESCAPE IS MADNESS.  
ANY SUCH ATTEMPT WILL FAIL AND  
CAN ONLY LEAD TO HARDSHIP FOR  
THE REST OF US. LET US MAKE THE  
BEST OF THINGS HERE.



I SHALL TRY TO LEAVE THIS PRISON.  
YOU MAY LICK YOUR MASTER'S  
BOOTS IF YOU WISH!

I AM NO COWARD . . . AND I  
SHALL SHOW YOU.



NO TARDON! YOU DON'T KNOW  
YOUR OWN STRENGTH.

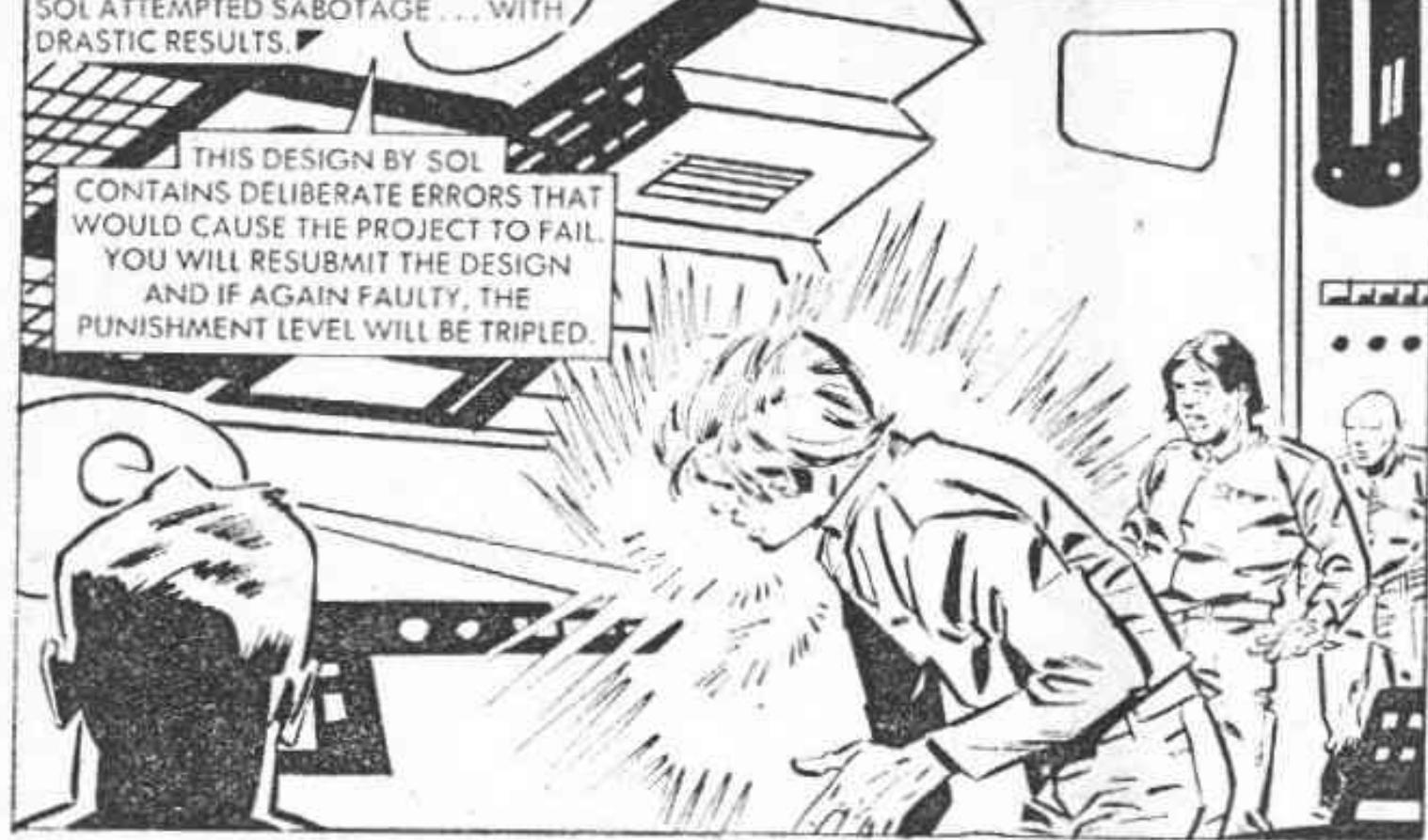


I'LL CRACK YOUR SKULL.



SOL ATTEMPTED SABOTAGE ... WITH  
DRASTIC RESULTS.

THIS DESIGN BY SOL  
CONTAINS DELIBERATE ERRORS THAT  
WOULD CAUSE THE PROJECT TO FAIL.  
YOU WILL RESUBMIT THE DESIGN  
AND IF AGAIN FAULTY, THE  
PUNISHMENT LEVEL WILL BE TRIPLED.



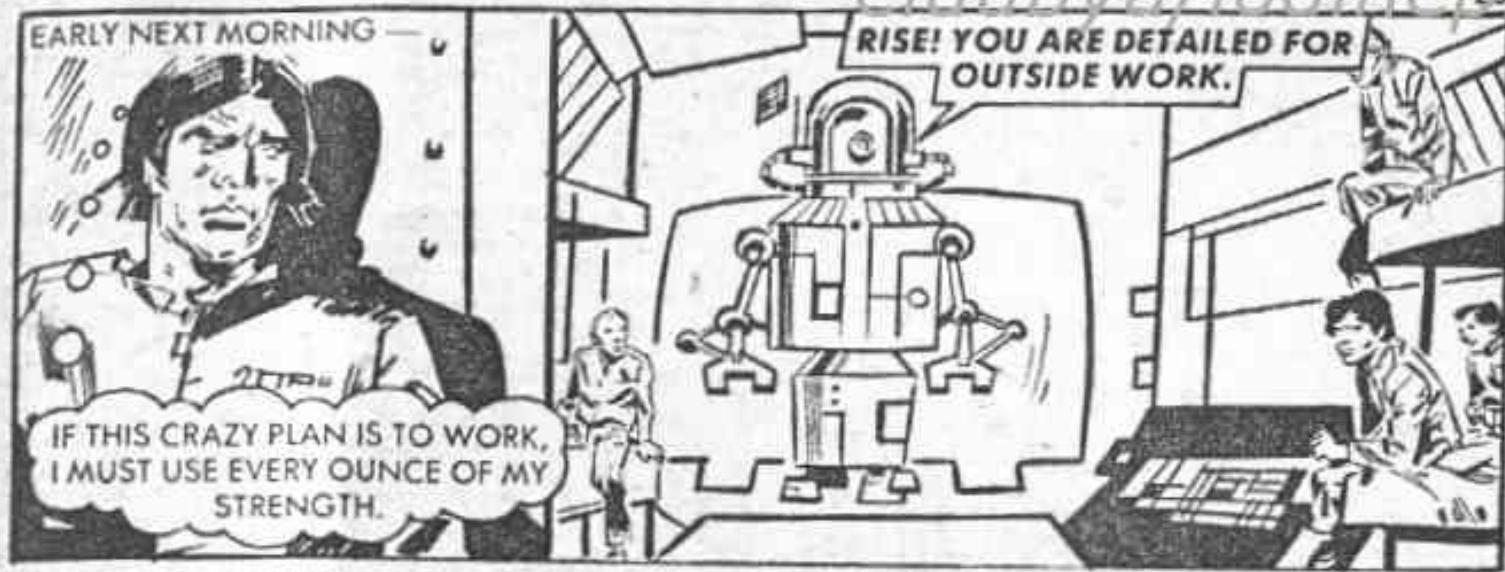
OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS SOL AND HAMMON GATHERED AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE TO AID AN ESCAPE PLAN.



HAMMON AND I HAVE WORKED  
OUT A POSSIBLE MEANS OF  
ESCAPE.

TARDON HAS BEEN PUNISHED SO  
BADLY LATELY FOR PROJECT  
FAILURES THAT HE INTENDS TO TAKE  
ANY CHANCE OF ESCAPE. WE NEED  
HIS STRENGTH.







ZORR HAS MONITORED EVERY PART OF THE ESCAPE.



THE REGION IS MY PRIVATE ZOO. FIRST, LET THEM TASTE THE TERROR OF MY BLOOD HUNTERS FROM THE DARK WORLD OF BEJAW!

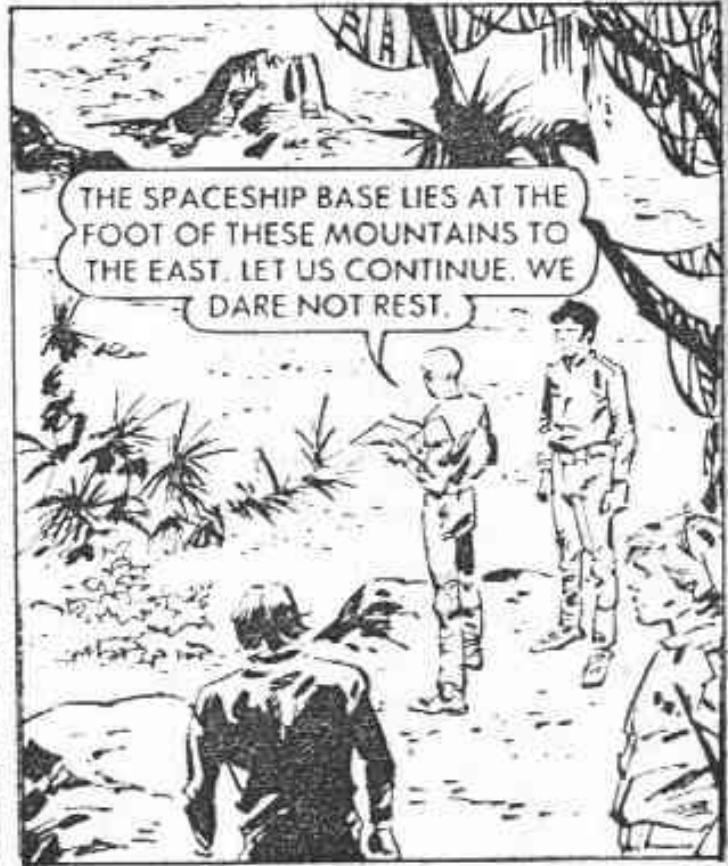
DEEP IN THE ZORRIAN JUNGLE A CAGE OPENED, RELEASING HIDEOUS BEJAW BLOOD HUNTERS.



A GROUP OF PRISONERS WERE HEADING TOWARDS THE HEART OF THE DESOLATE REGION.







EVEN AS THEY STARTED TOWARDS THE DISTANT HILLS, ZORR'S SEEKER ROBOTS FOUND THEM.



BUT IN THE JUNGLE —



THE REMAINING FEW PRISONERS FOUGHT HARD.



THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH.



NIGHT FELL—



I'LL BE GLAD WHEN MY WATCH IS  
OVER AND I CAN SLEEP. MIND YOU,  
THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

WELL, NOTHING'S HAPPENED  
SO FAR, TARDON.





AS THE FIREBALLS CLOSED IN, THEY SCOOPED WATER OVER THEM. THE RESULTANT REACTION ENDED THE PROBLEM.



SEE! THEY HAVE DISTURBED THE SWAMP CREATURE!

IF THEY SURVIVE THE BRUTE'S ONSLAUGHT, THEY WILL HAVE ESCAPED FROM THE FINAL PERIL OF THE DESOLATE REGION!

QUICKLY! UP THE SLOPE!

UP THE STEEP PART.



139  
EVENTUALLY THEY ARRIVED AT THE MAP REFERENCE...

WHERE IS THE BASE?  
THERE IS NOTHING HERE.



THERE IS NO BASE! THE MICRO FILM WAS  
PLANTED SO IT MIGHT BE STOLEN. FOLLOW US,  
OR MY MEN WILL VAPE YOU.



ALL THAT KILLING FOR A GAME! HOW  
MANY OF US ARE LEFT?

THIRTY! THE THIRTY FIT ENOUGH TO  
UNDERTAKE THE GREAT TASK I HAVE  
IN MIND.



THE PRISONERS WERE SHOWN THE ZORR INVASION FORCE.

NOW SEE THE ARMIES COMMANDED BY GENERAL VALCAN! YOUR JOB WILL BE TO ENSURE THEY ARE TRANSPORTED SAFELY TO THEIR DESTINATION. ONE DAY, YOU WILL BE PROUD AND WILLING TO FIGHT WITH US. YOU WILL SEE!

THE TOUR IS OVER! YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO YOUR NEW QUARTERS. TOMORROW, YOU WILL COMMENCE TRAINING FOR YOUR PART IN THE GRAND DESIGN.

THE CAPTIVES WERE TAKEN TO A MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

THE BAND IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE. ACKNOWLEDGE ME AS YOUR NEW MASTER!

NO CHANCE—MURDERER.

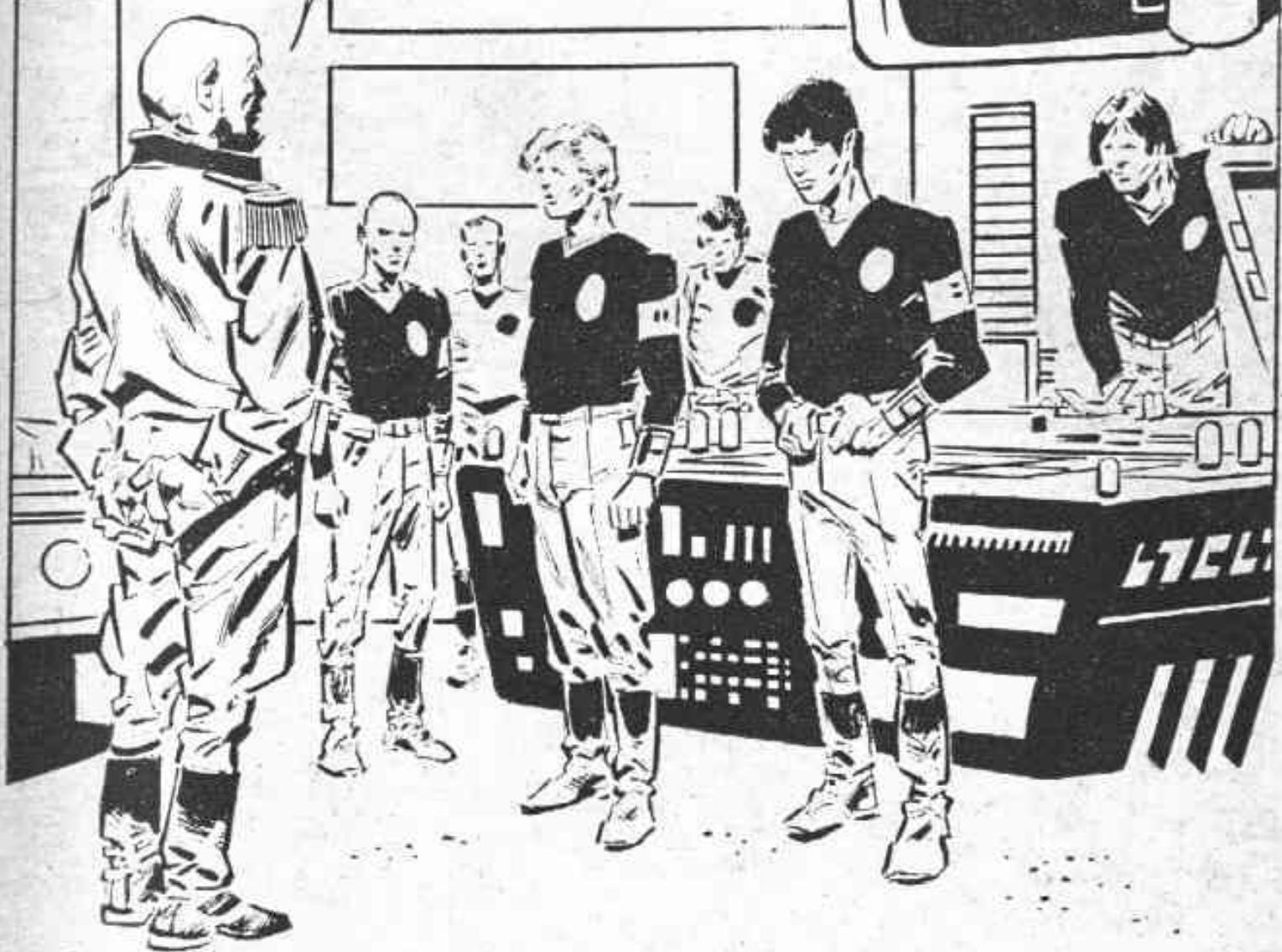


THROUGH THE WRIST BAND, WE CAN DIRECT LEVELS OF PAIN A THOUSAND TIMES MORE TERRIBLE THAN THE WORST TORTURE. NOW YOU WILL OBEY ME.



43  
SOON AFTER—

YOUR LIVING QUARTERS. AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE LAST, EH? THERE ARE GAMES YOU MAY PLAY—DESIGNED TO SHARPEN YOUR WITS AND CO-ORDINATION.



AFTER ZORR HAD LEFT—

ZORR MEANS TO CONQUER THE ENTIRE GALAXY. HE SAID THAT THEN WE WOULD BE REWARDED WITH WEALTH AND POWER.

HE NEEDS PILOTS TO COMMAND HIS DRAGON SHIPS. ZORR PRODUCES WARRIORs, BUT FEW PILOTS CAPABLE OF HANDLING SOPHISTICATED FIGHTING VESSELS.



ZORR PERSONALLY CONDUCTED THE FINAL TEST.

TWENTY MINUTES LATER

47

THIS TEST WILL TOUGHEN YOU PHYSICALLY. I NEED YOUNG SUPER-MEN TO FLY THE DRAGON SHIPS. WE SHALL CLIMB TO THE PEAK, AND TO PROVE IT CAN BE DONE, I SHALL RUN WITH YOU!

I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP.

YOU'D BETTER, OR I'LL GIVE THE PAIN CONTROL DIAL A LITTLE TWIST!

AFTER A LONG, EXHAUSTING RUN—

I NEVER THOUGHT  
I'D MAKE IT.

YOU WON'T STAY HERE LONG.  
SOON THE STUGGLE WILL RISE  
FROM THE INTERIOR. THEN YOU  
MUST DO EXACTLY THE SAME AS I  
DO, OR DIE!

THERE IS ONLY ONE ESCAPE  
FROM THE STUGGLE. YOU  
MUST LEAP INTO SPACE  
AFTER ME.

JUPE... A MECHANICAL  
SPIDER.

BUT IT'S TWO THOUSAND  
FEET TO THE GROUND.



AFTER WEEKS OF ARDUOUS PHYSICAL TRAINING, THE CAPTIVES WERE DETAILED TO THEIR DRAGON SHIPS.



YOU MANOEUVRED YOURSELF INTO A POSITION WHERE THE OTHER SHIP COULD GET A SHOT AT YOU. STILL, YOU DID CO-ORDINATE THE DEFLECTORS AND CAUSE A MISS. JUST AS WELL THIS IS A TRAINING FLIGHT.

REMEMBER THAT ALTHOUGH ROBOTS AND COMPUTERS OPERATE THIS SHIP, YOU, TARDON AND SCHULANN, ARE THE BRAINS THAT DIRECT THEIR DECISIONS.)



ENERGISE THREE AND FOUR DEFLECTORS BEARING RED 8600. STAND BY TO FIRE MAIN ANTI-MATTER WEAPONS. CO-ORDINATES 646462.



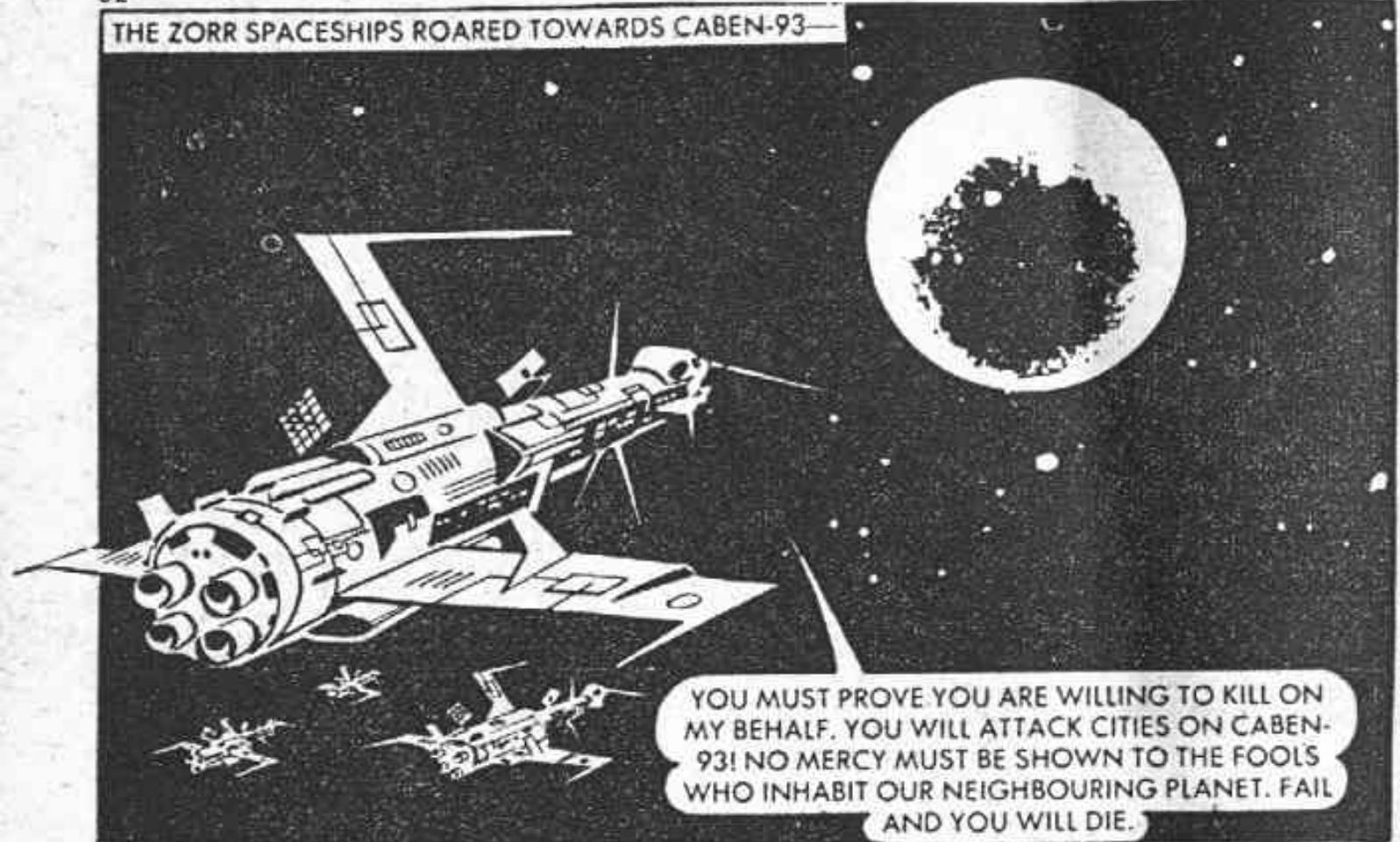




DESPITE A LONG DISCUSSION NO IDEAS WERE FORTHCOMING. NEXT DAY—



THE ZORR SPACESHIPS ROARED TOWARDS CABEN-93—



ZORR ACCCOMPANIED SOL AND HAMMON ABOARD THEIR VESSEL.





TERROR REIGNED ON CABEN-93 WHEN THE OCCUPANTS OF THE CITIES SAW THE DRAGON SHIPS APPROACHING.





BUT DOWN ON BRINDMANOR...





SHORTLY AFTERWARDS—



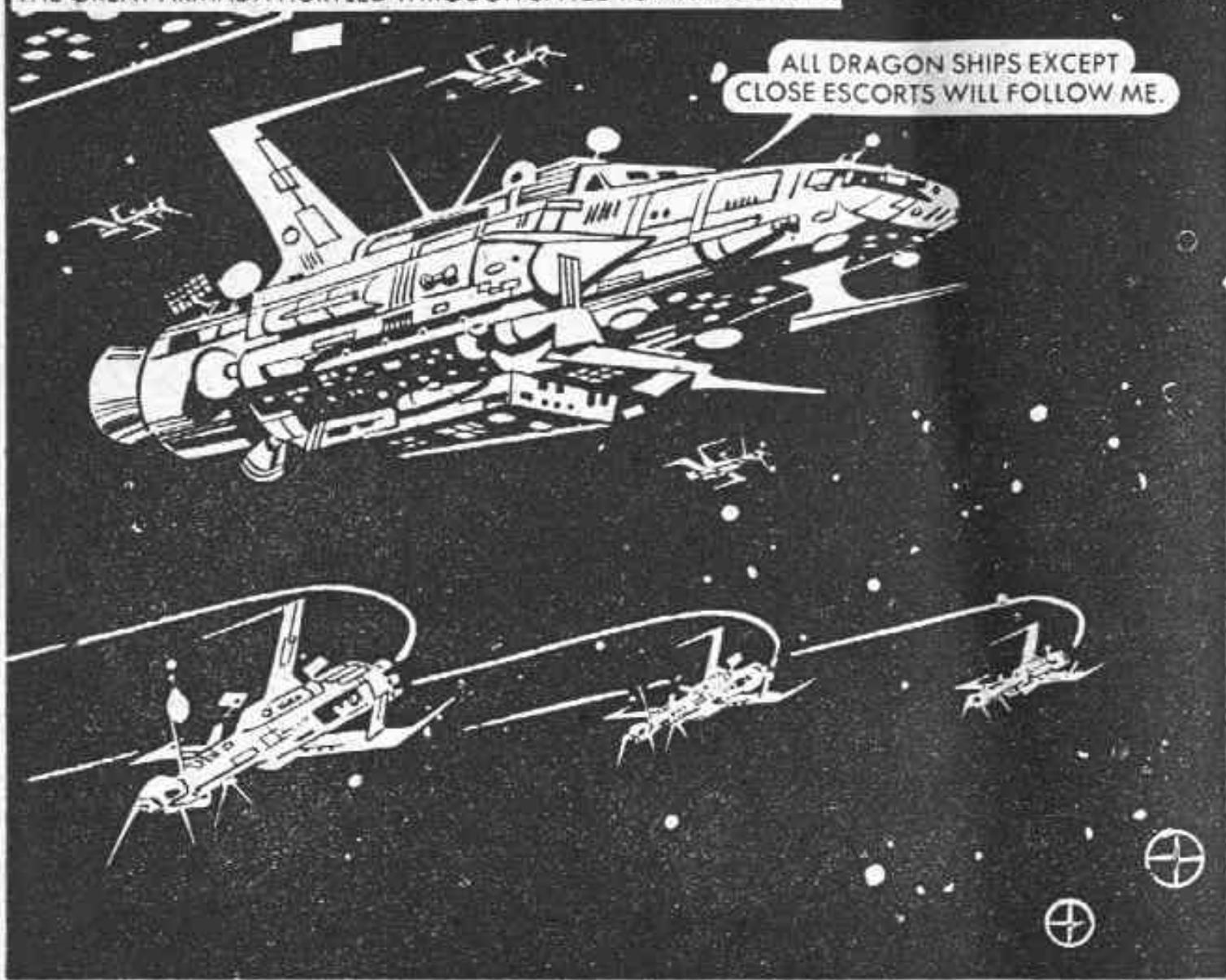
AT LAST WE ARE READY TO STRIKE! THE  
FIRST TARGET IS PLANET EARTH! AN  
ATTACK THERE WILL WIPE OUT A LARGE  
PORTION OF THE GALACTIC STAR FLEET  
—AND ELIMINATE THEIR MAIN  
OPERATIONS CENTRE.

AS THE FIGHTERS warped away, the transports loaded up.



THE GREAT ARMADA HURTLED THROUGH SPACE TOWARDS EARTH.

ALL DRAGON SHIPS EXCEPT  
CLOSE ESCORTS WILL FOLLOW ME.

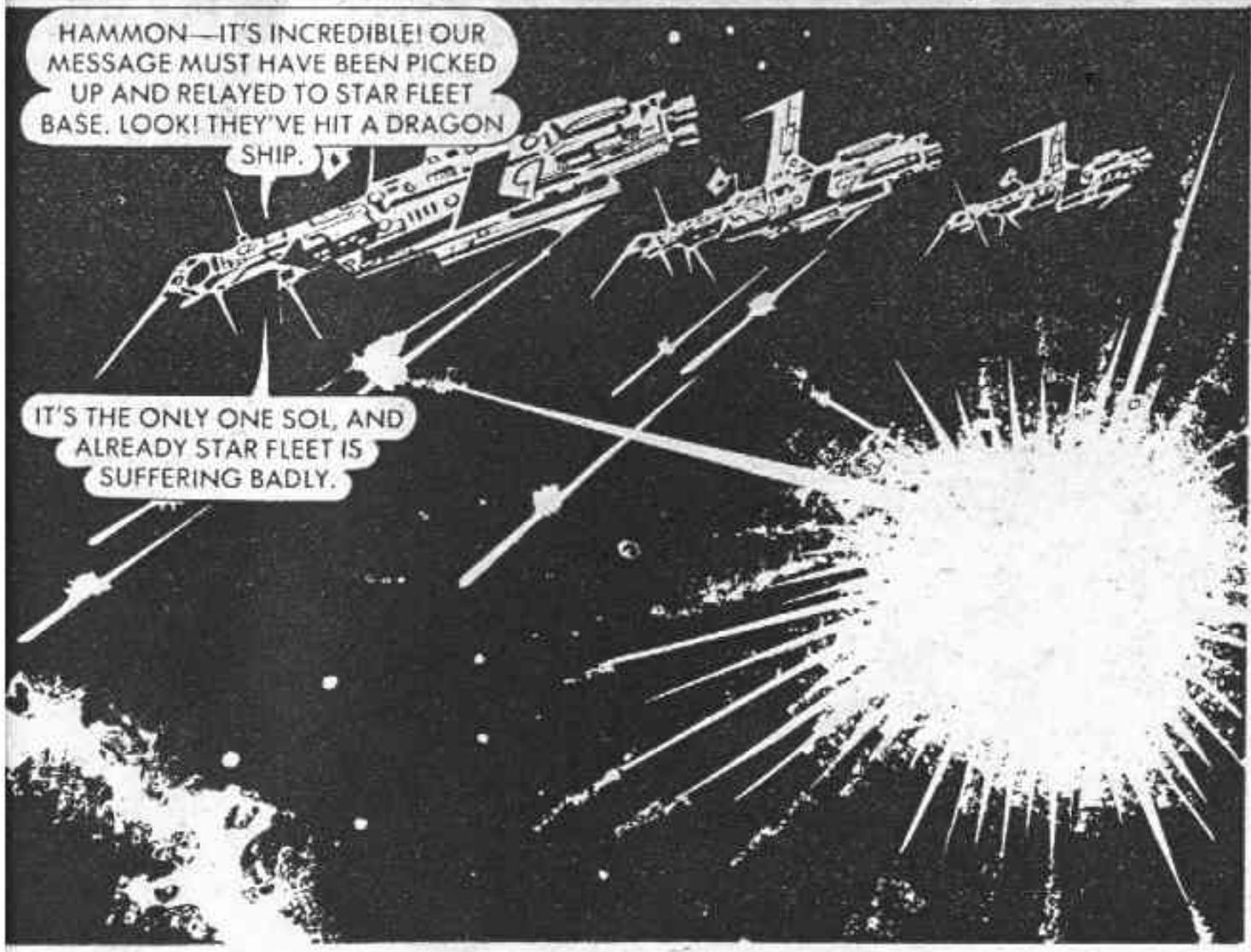


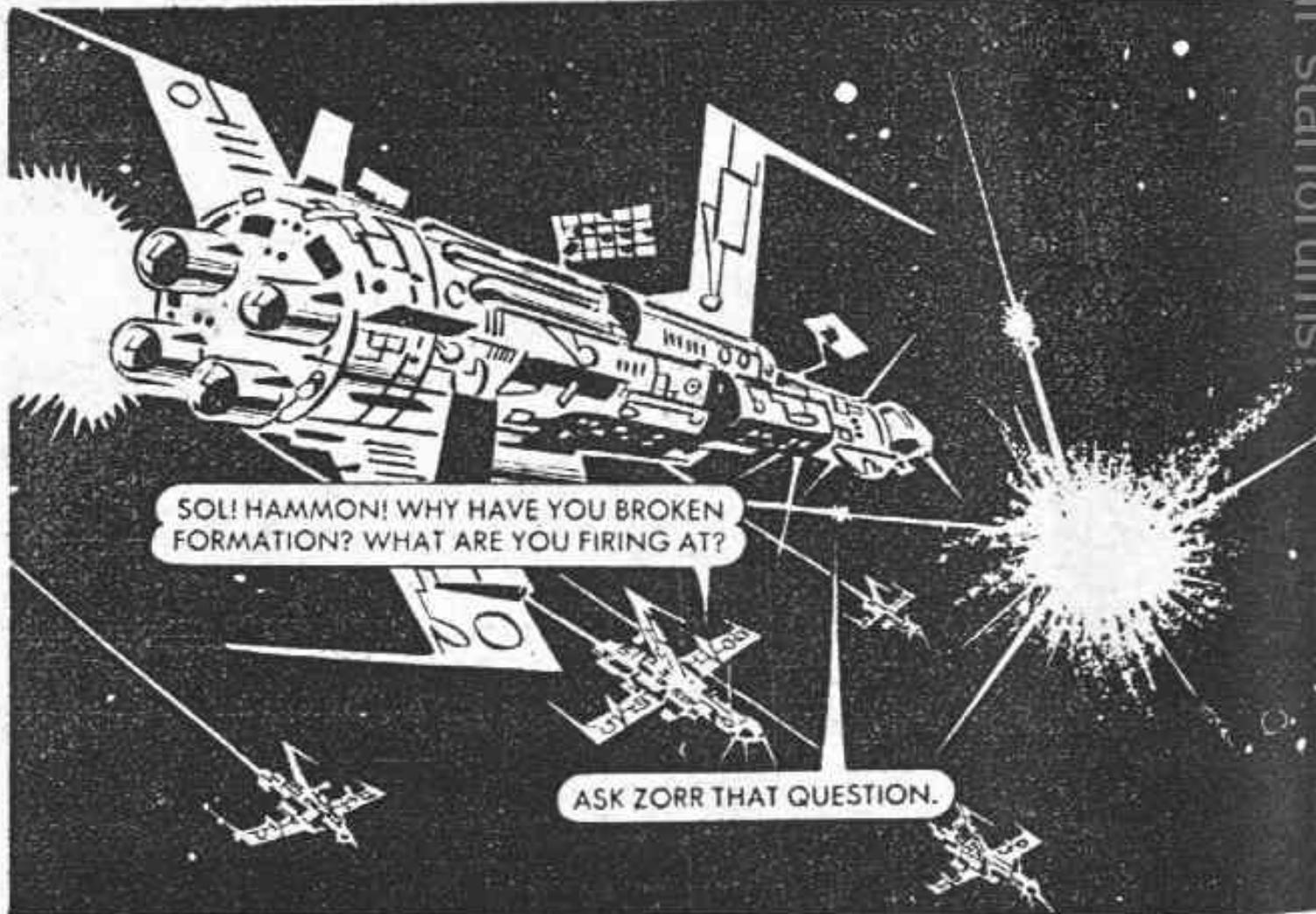
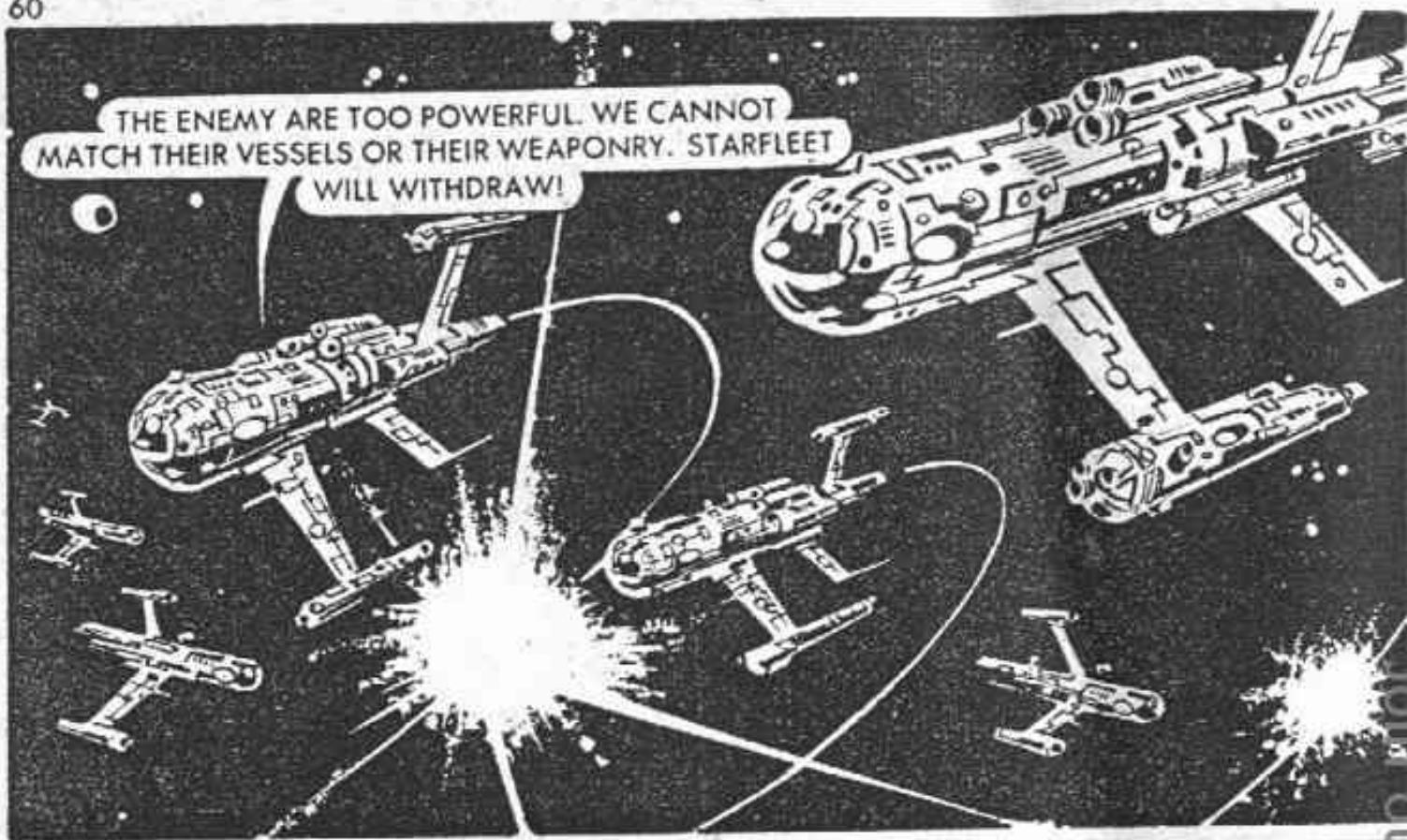
ZORR CRACKLED ONTO A VID SCREEN—

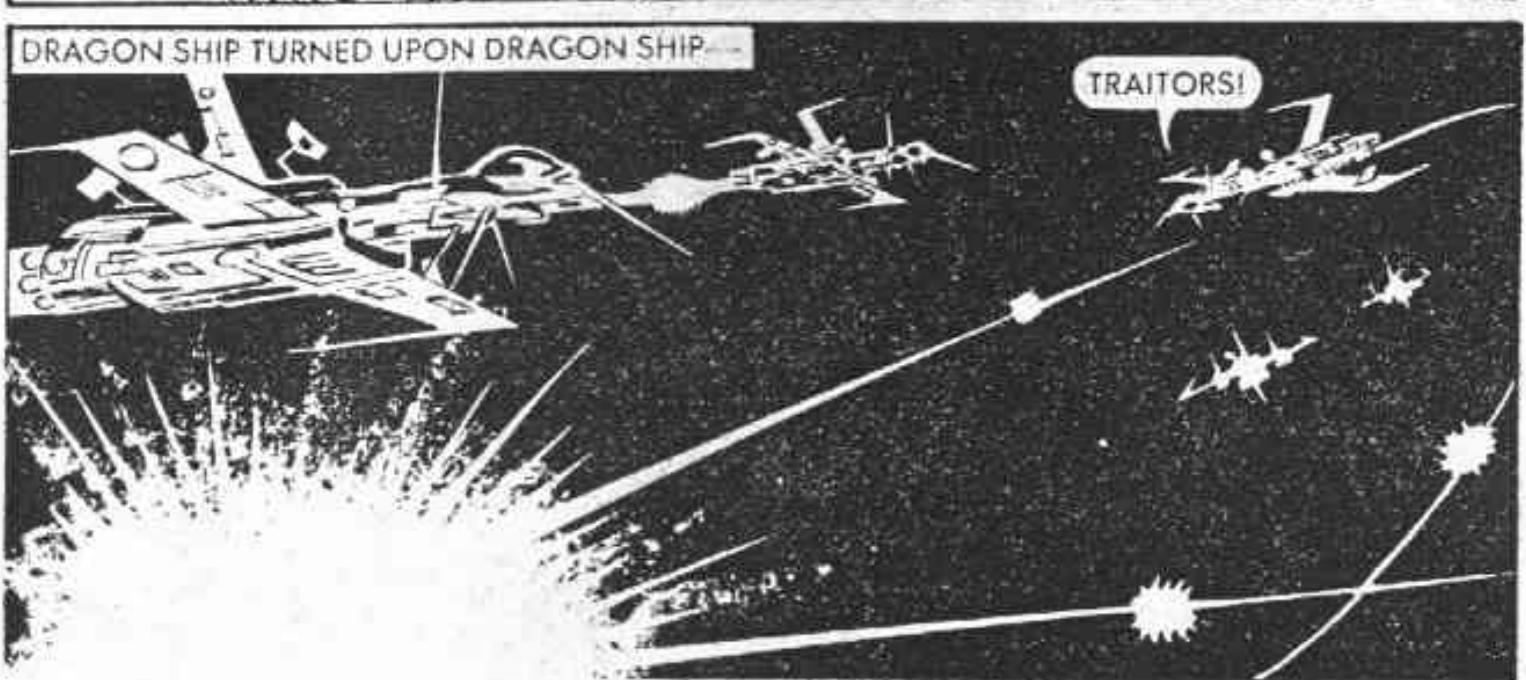
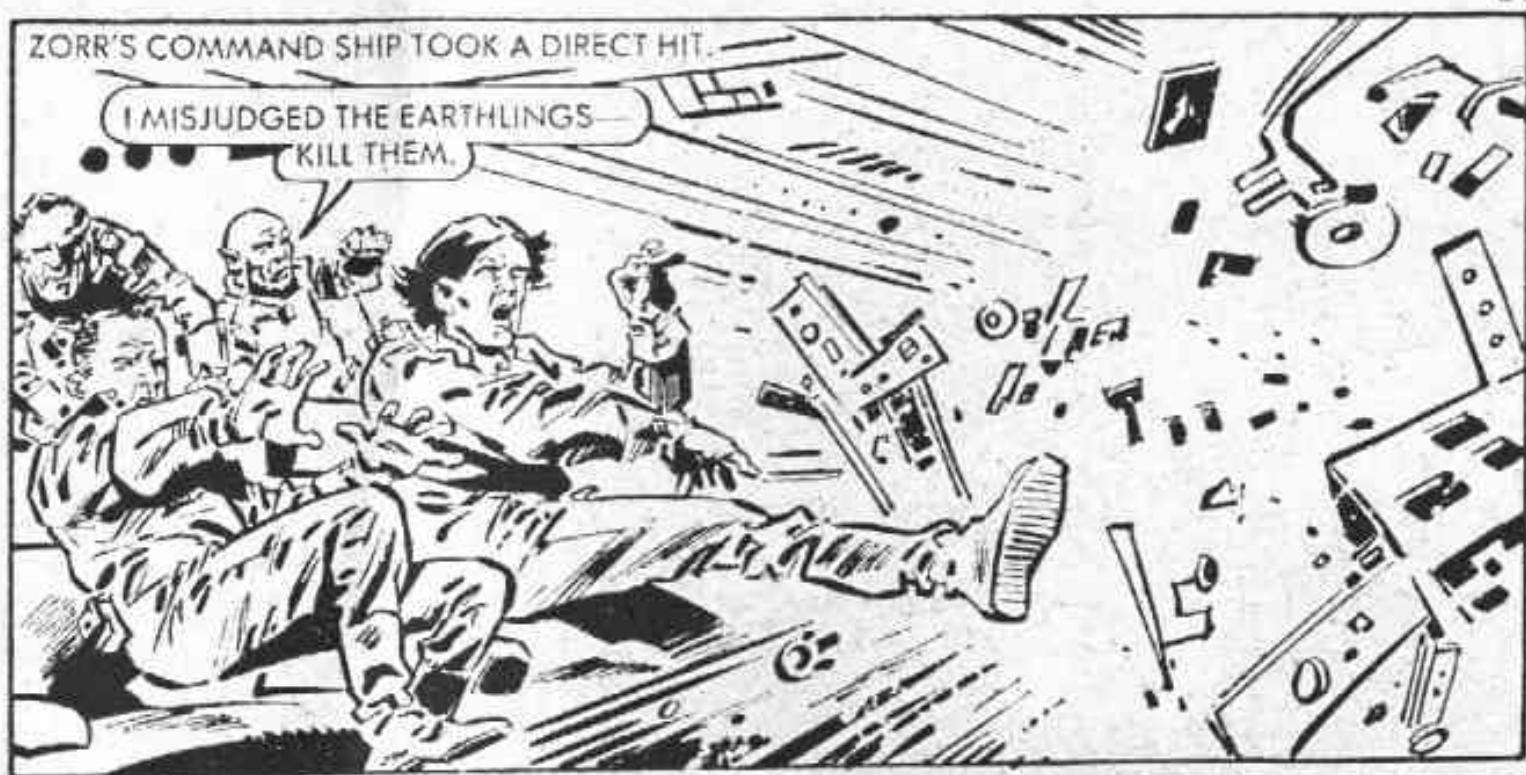
EARTHMEN—YOUR PLANET'S  
DEFENCES MUST BE ANNIHILATED.

IT IS NECESSARY.

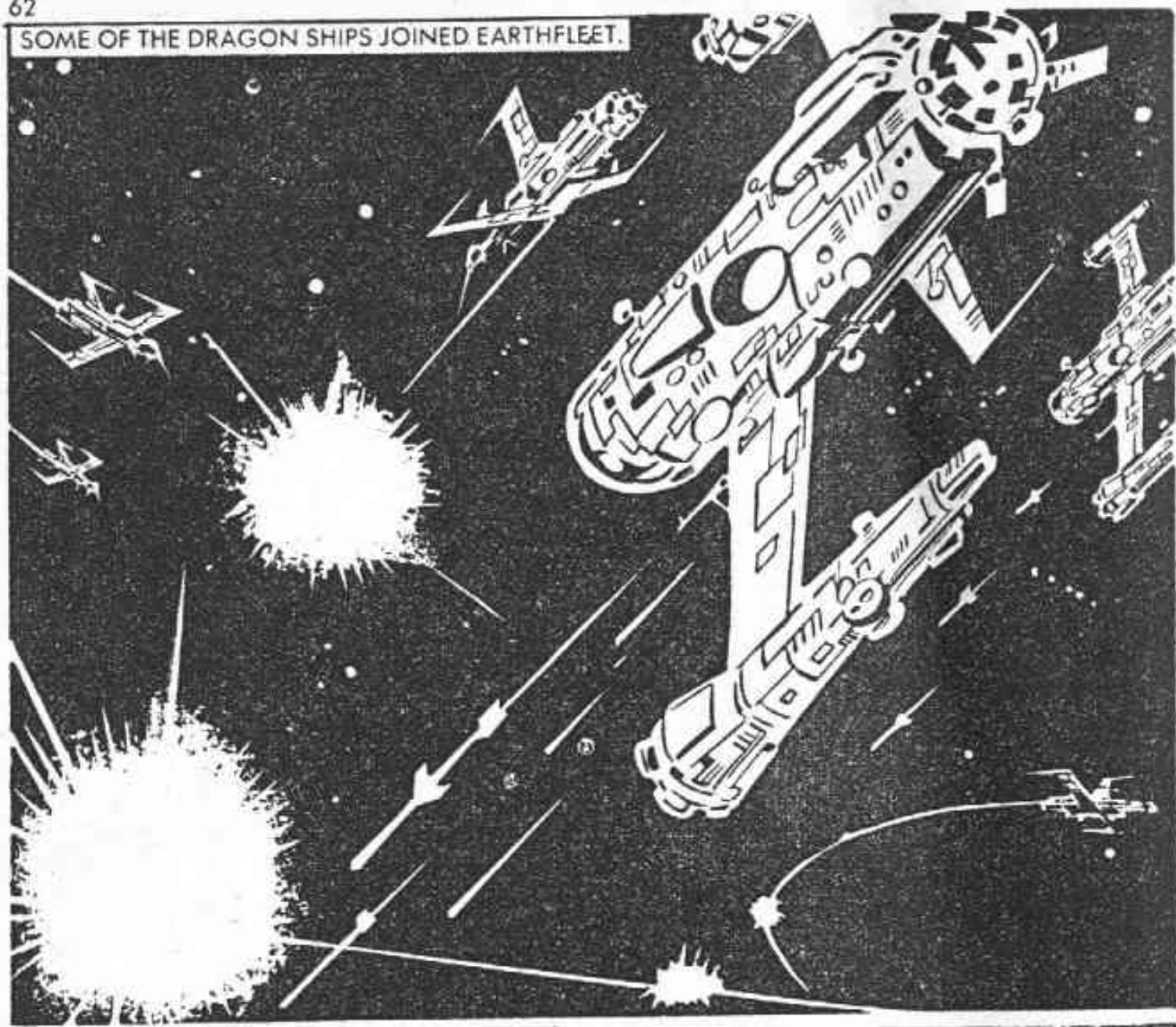








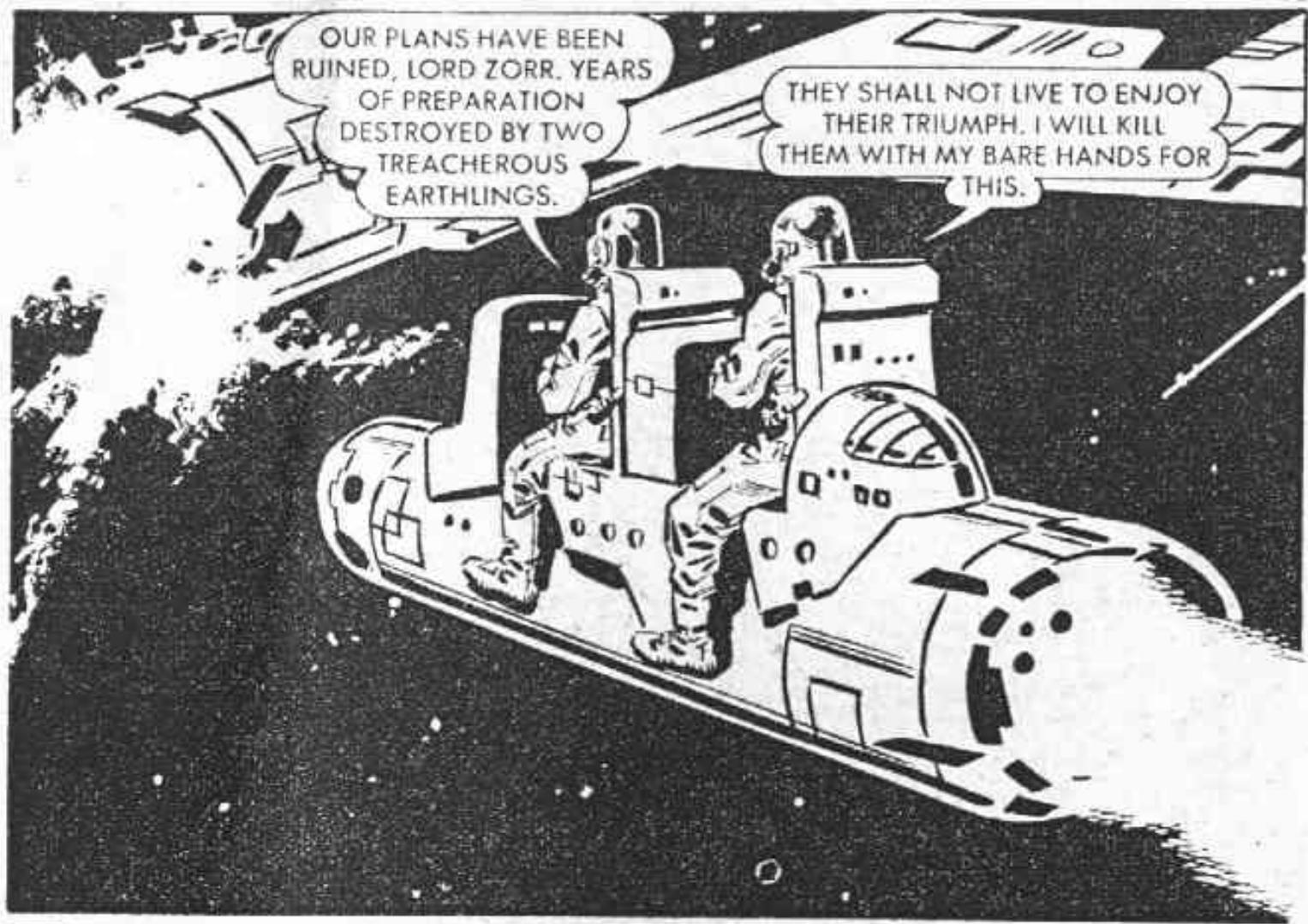
SOME OF THE DRAGON SHIPS JOINED EARTHFLEET.



AT THE HEIGHT OF THE STRUGGLE—

A HIT! THE ESCAPE BAY  
HAS BEEN DESTROYED—  
WE'RE TRAPPED.

WE CAN ONLY DRIFT AROUND UNTIL  
THE BATTLE IS OVER. LET'S  
HOPE THE RIGHT SIDE WIN,  
HAMMON.





MANY SPACIALS LATER—

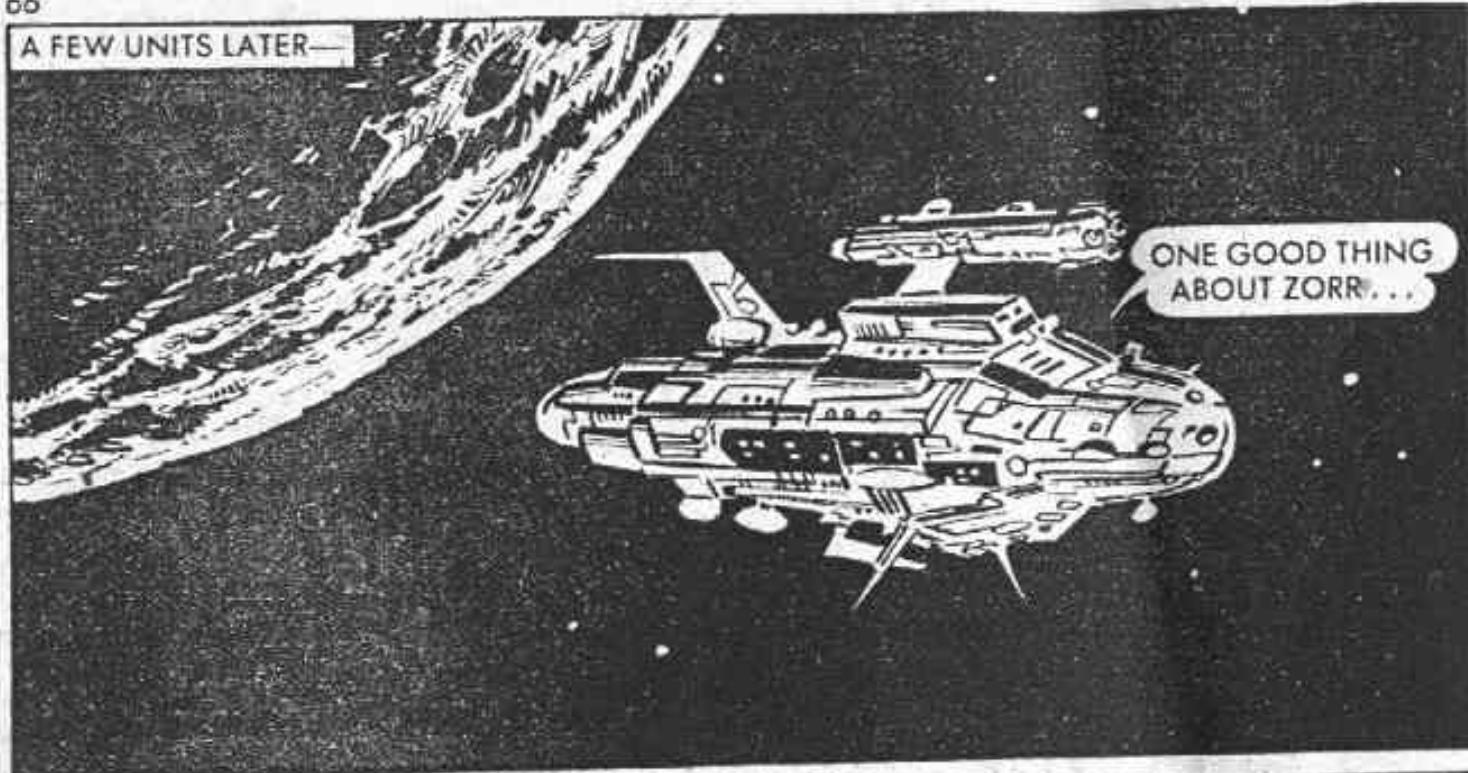
THANKS TO YOU AND THE OTHER YOUNG MEN WHO CHANGED SIDES, WE WIPE OUT EVERYTHING THAT ZORR PUT INTO SPACE. WE SHALL TAKE HIM TO EARTH FOR TRIAL.



ALONG WITH THE OTHER SURVIVORS, I WILL BE RETURNING TO MY HOMEPREP. I AM SORRY THAT I THOUGHT YOU TRAITORS. GOODNESS KNOWS WHAT WE WOULD HAVE DONE IF STAR FLEET HAD NOT GOT YOUR MESSAGE! GOODBYE, FRIENDS.

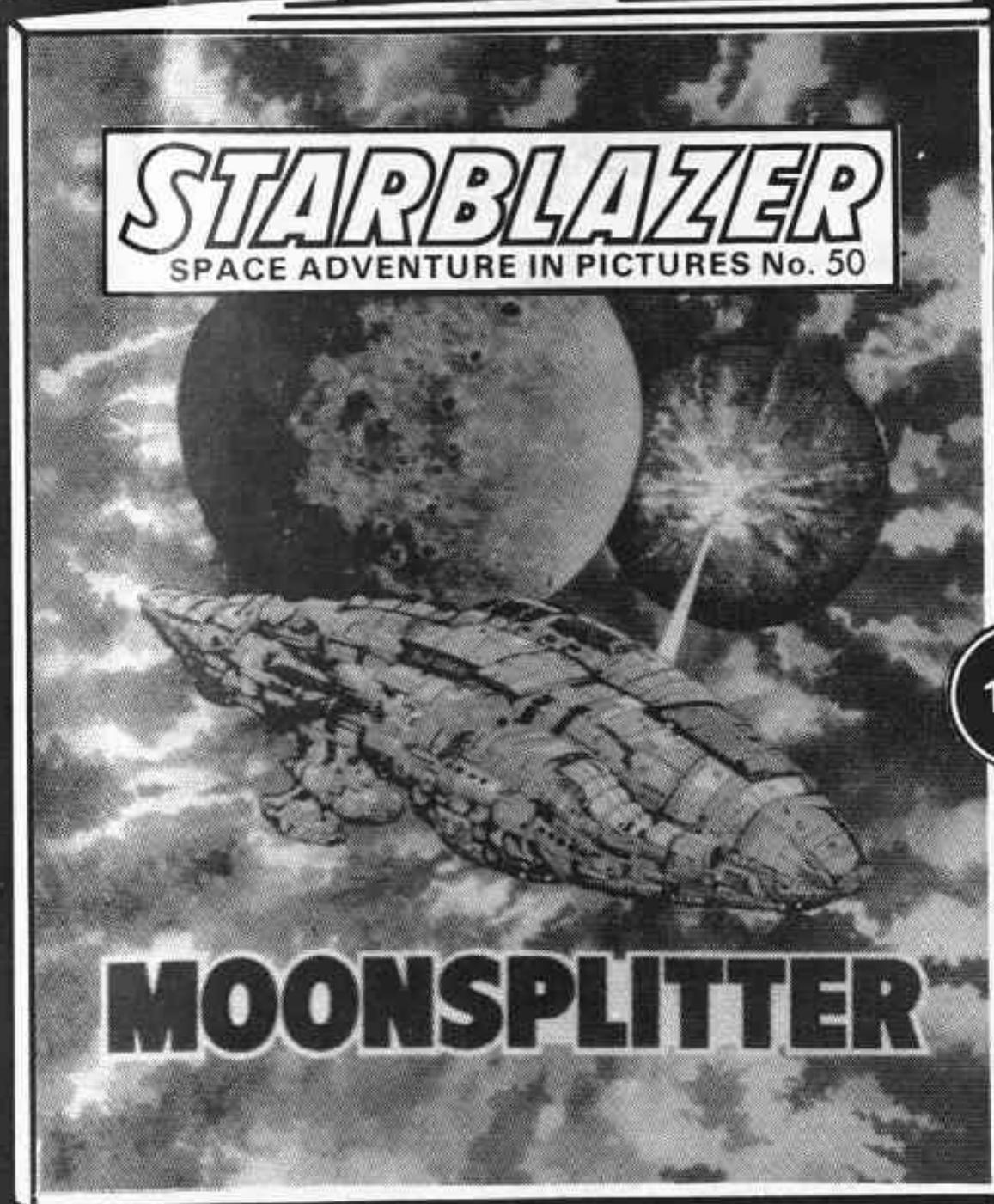


A FEW UNITS LATER—



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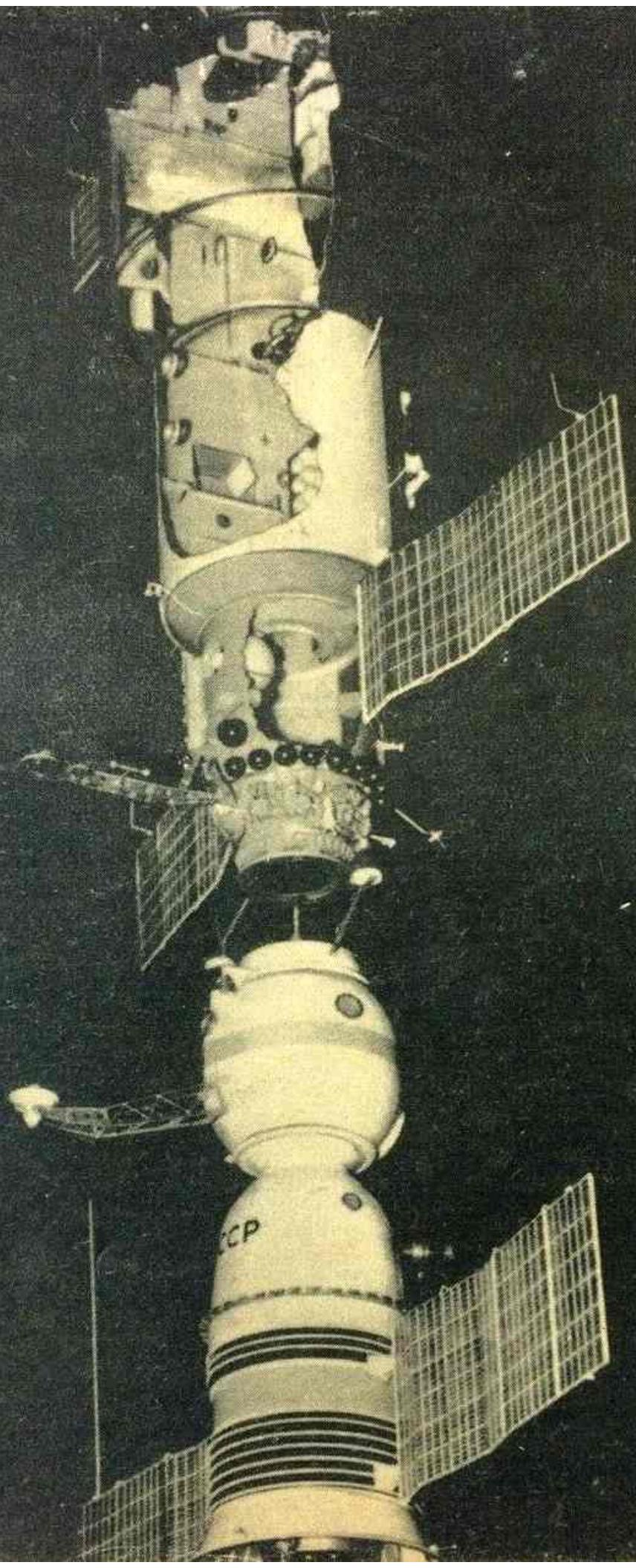
**COME  
STARBLAZING**  
*with the other*



**ALSO ON SALE THIS MONTH**

# STARBLAZERS

IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE 51



A record-breaking spaceflight was made by Russian cosmonauts Lyankov and Ryumin of Soyuz 32 in 1979. They remained on board the Salyut space station for 175 days, before returning safely to Earth.